

surface, and have a cover which can be lowered and raised relative to the heating surface, said cover serving for pressing the microtitre plate against the heating surface, wherein a plurality of elastically compressible lifting elements for rising and detaching of the microtitre plate from the heating surface are distributed over the heating surface, said lifting elements projecting beyond the edges of the indentations at least when the cover is raised.

2. (Amended) The thermocycler according to Claim 1, wherein the projection of the lifting elements is at least 2 mm, preferably at least 5 mm.

3. (Twice Amended) The thermocycler according to Claim 1, wherein the density of the lifting elements is at least 1 per 30 cm<sup>2</sup>.

BI 4. (Twice Amended) The thermocycler according to Claim 1, wherein each lifting element is removably fixed to the heating surface.

5. (Twice Amended) The thermocycler according to Claim 1, wherein each lifting element is inserted into a blind hole in the heating surface.

6. (Twice Amended) The thermocycler according to Claim 4, wherein the fixing of the lifting element is effected by frictional locking with the walls of the blind hole.

7. (Twice Amended) The thermocycler according to Claim 1, wherein the lifting element comprises an elongated spring element which is compressible in the longitudinal direction and carries a contact part which forms an abutting surface, oriented transversely

to the longitudinal direction, at the upper end of the lifting element.

8. (Amended) The thermocycler according to Claim 7, wherein the contact part consists of plastic, preferably PEEK, PTFE, FP, PPS or PI.

9. (Twice Amended) The thermocycler according to Claim 7, wherein the spring element is in the form of a coil spring and the contact part is in the form of a contact pin which comprises a shaft surrounded by the upper part of the coil spring and a laterally projecting head which rests on the upper end of the coil spring and whose upper surface forms the abutting surface.

BI 10. (Twice Amended) The thermocycler according to Claim 9, wherein the lowermost winding of the coil spring is somewhat wider.

11. (Twice Amended) The thermocycler according to Claim 9, wherein the contact pin is rotationally symmetrical.

12. (Amended) The thermocycler according to Claim 11, wherein both the shaft and the head of the contact pin are essentially cylindrical.

13. (Twice Amended) The thermocycler according to Claim 7, wherein the length of the lifting element is between 15 mm and 20 mm and the diameter of the abutting surface is at least 3 mm.

14. (Twice Amended) The thermocycler according to claim 7, wherein the spring constant of the lifting element is at least 5N/mm.

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